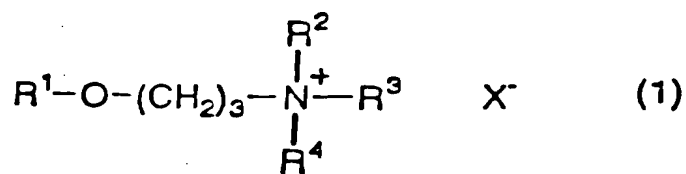


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (Previously Amended) A hair cosmetic composition, comprising:
an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein,

R¹ represents a linear or branched C₆₋₂₄ alkyl or alkenyl group,

R² and R⁴ each represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group or -(AO)_nH in which A represents a C₂₋₄ alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R³ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, a benzyl group or -(A'O)_mH in which A' represents a C₂₋₄ alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

X⁻ represents an anion.

Claim 2. (Previously Amended) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, which contains the ether functional group containing cationic surfactant of formula (1) in an amount of 0.1 to 20 wt %.

Claim 3. (Previously Amended) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, further comprising a surfactant other than the compound of formula (1).

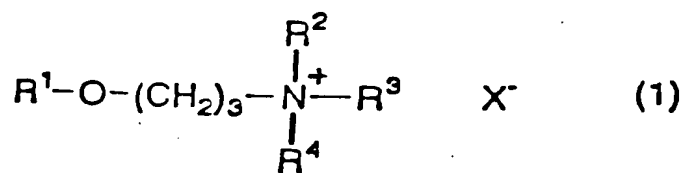
Claim 4. (Previously Amended) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 3, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of formula (1) is at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

Claim 5. (Previously Amended) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 4, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of formula (1) is a cationic surfactant.

Claim 6. (Original) The hair cosmetic composition of any one of Claims 1 to 5, further comprising an oil component.

Claim 7. (Previously Amended) A hair cleansing composition, which comprises:

(a) an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein

R¹ represents a linear or branched C₆₋₂₄ alkyl or alkenyl group,

R² and R⁴ each represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group or -(AO)_nH in which A represents a C₂₋₄ alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

X^- represents an anion; and.

(b) at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

Claim 8. (Original) The hair cleansing composition of Claim 7, further comprising a cationic surfactant other than component (a).

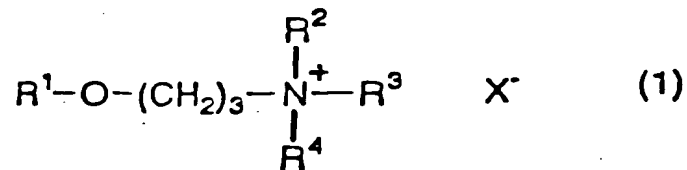
Claim 9. (Original) The hair cleansing composition of Claim 7, wherein the content of (b) is 0.1 to 50 wt % and the ratio (a)/(b) ranges from 1/1 to 1/100.

Claim 10. (Original) The hair cleansing composition of any one of Claims 7 to 9, further comprising an oil component.

Claims 11 and 12. (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A method for treating hair, comprising:

applying a hair cosmetic composition comprising (a) an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein,

R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group,

R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(AO)_nH$ in which A represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group, benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

X^- represents an anion, to the hair.

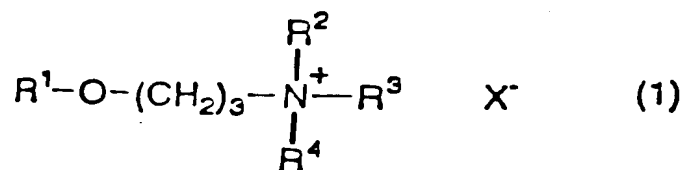
Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the ether functional group containing cationic surfactant of formula (1) is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20 wt %.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, which further comprises a surfactant other than the compound of formula (1).

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of formula (1) is at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A method for shampooing hair, comprising:
applying the hair cleansing composition of claim 7 to the hair.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A hair cosmetic composition comprising an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein,

R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group,

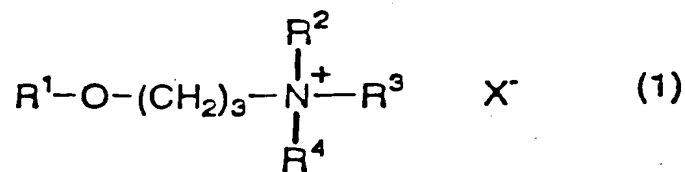
R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(AO)_nH$ in which A represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

X^- represents an anion.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A hair cosmetic composition, comprising:

(a) from 0.1 to 20 wt % of an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein,

R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group,

R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(AO)_nH$ in which A represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

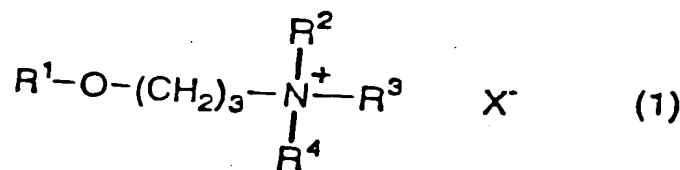
X^- represents an anion; and

(b) at least one surfactant other than the surfactant of formula (1) which is selected from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for treating hair, comprising:

applying a hair cosmetic composition comprising:

(a) from 0.1 to 20 wt % of an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein,

R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group,

R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(AO)_nH$ in which A represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group, benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

X^- represents an anion, and

(b) at least one surfactant other than the surfactant of formula (1) which is selected from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants, to the hair.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of formula (1) is at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of formula (1) is at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of formula (1) is a cationic surfactant.